

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 17-27 as follows. A marked up version of the paragraph at page 1, lines 17-27, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

B1
In the optical scanning apparatus such as the laser beam printers, the digital copiers, etc. heretofore, the image information was recorded in such a manner that the light optically modulated according to an image signal and outputted from the light source means was periodically deflected by the deflecting means which consisted of, for example, a polygon mirror, and was converged in a spot shape on a surface of a photosensitive recording medium by the scanning optical means with the $f\theta$ characteristics to optically scan the surface.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 2, line 25, and ending at page 3, line 11, as follows. A marked up version of the paragraph starting at page 2, line 25, and ending at page 3, line 11, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

B2
To make the apparatus from the optical deflector 95 to the surface to be scanned 97 more compact, it is necessary to effect good correction for optical performance of the $f\theta$ lens 96 throughout wide angles of view. For example, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 7-113950 discloses an example of correction for curvature of field (image positions) in the sub-scanning direction and at wide angles of view by provision of only

B2
one surface wherein curvatures in the sagittal direction vary on an asymmetric basis with respect to the optical axis and wherein magnitude relations of curvatures in the sagittal direction are different on the upper and lower sides of the optical axis.

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 12-27 as follows. A marked up version of the paragraph at page 3, lines 12-27, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

B3
There was, however, the problem that nonuniformity of lateral magnification (which will also be referred to hereinafter as "sub-scanning magnification") in the sub-scanning direction appeared prominent at wide angles of view and even if the image positions in the sub-scanning direction were corrected the spot size would vary in proportion to sub-scanning magnifications at respective scanning positions. Further, in the case of the optical scanning apparatus using multiple beams, they suffered from the problem that with deviation of the sub-scanning magnifications from a fixed value, line pitch intervals in the sub-scanning direction varied at every scanning position on the surface to be scanned during the optical scanning of that surface, so as to result in irregular pitch.

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓
Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.